

CITYVIEW

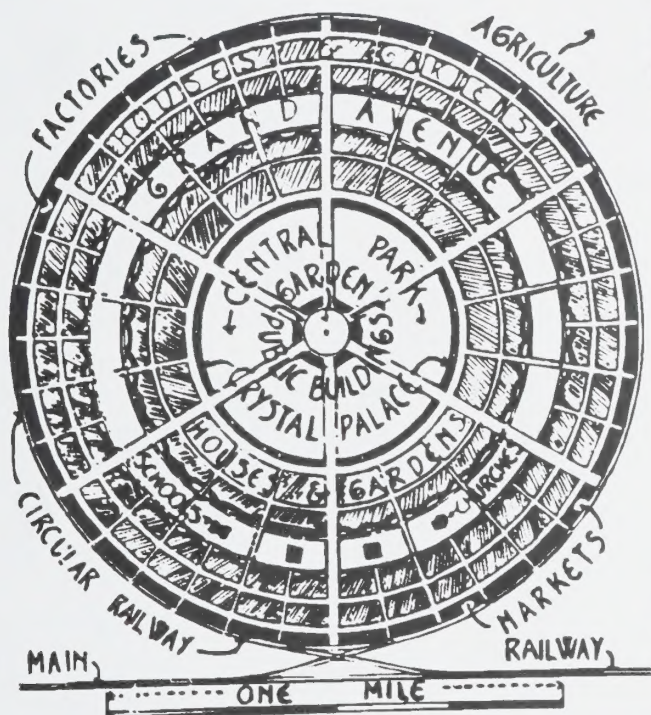
City of Hamilton Planning and Development Department

1996

HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES

What do Health Issues have to do with City Planning?

A lot.... in fact. City or Town Planning began in the last century out of a concern to create a more healthy living environment for residents of urban areas. The provision of clean potable water, the construction of sanitary sewers and the recognition that people needed adequate ventilation and access to sunlight were all actions that helped counter disease and formalized the concept of City Planning.



In the early 1900's, town planners had taken a further step through the introduction of the "Garden City" concept. This recognized that urban dwellers access to green park space was essential for their physical and mental well-being. The "Garden City" concept also introduced the notion that separating land uses was another way of countering the health effects of industry. Now, people could live at a distance from factories, in a clean, quiet, pleasant and healthy environment.

Today, we are still facing some of the same health issues such as the need for, clean air and water but we also have newer issues to deal with. One key issue is the presence of contaminated soil on former industrial and commercial land uses.

What Does the City Do if Someone Wants to Put a Factory Near My House?

Health concerns are of primary importance in all types of development. In allowing a factory to be developed, various health related issues are to be considered:

- *how noisy is the factory?
- *how does truck traffic affect the residents?
- *are there harmful emissions?
- *does the activity in the factory contaminate the soil?

The City needs to know if these potential health problems can be overcome and if so, how can it be done to make a comfortable living environment for the person living in the house.

Should the City continue to be concerned about health related issues as we plan for development and redevelopment?

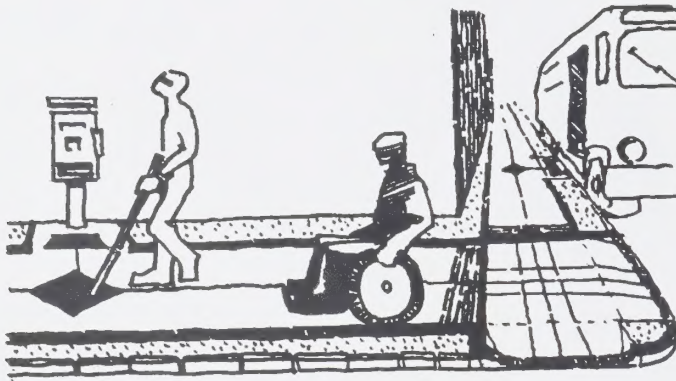


Is City Planning involved with Social Issues?

Yes! The City does work with various social agencies (i.e., Housing Help Centre, Social Planning and Research Council, Regional Social Services Department, etc.) to improve the social environment of our citizens. In addition, the City is actively involved on its own initiative in improving the quality of the "urban environment" for physically disabled people.

How?

One of the ways is to encourage developers and land owners to provide accessible handicapped parking spaces on their site. Another goal is to develop design standards which serve the needs of both blind and wheel chair users, as well as able-bodied persons.



You may not know this but the City has developed an "urban braille" system. It is a system which translates all vital visual information into tactile information which can be detected by the cane of a blind person. Special tactile plates are embedded in the sidewalk, indicating change of direction, street crossings, bus stops, building entrances, telephone booths, etc.

One experimental sidewalk design which includes most of these features has been constructed on Parkdale Avenue North.

Should the City continue to be proactive in dealing with social matters that impact on planning for the City?



For further information on this brochure, please contact Joanne Hickey-Evans at (905) 546-4229

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CITYVIEW

CityView Hamilton's Plan for Tomorrow is your opportunity to present your ideas and thoughts on the future of Hamilton.

Your ideas will ultimately form the basis of a new Official Plan for the City of Hamilton.

Staff of Hamilton's Planning and Development Department are available to answer your questions on any facet of CityView.

Ways to Contact Us...

Joanne Hickey-Evans at (905) 546-4229
Keith Exance at (905) 546-4158

FAX (905) 546-4202

E-Mail : city.hamilton.planning@freenet.hamilton.on.ca

Mail to...

City of Hamilton
Planning and Development Department
7th Floor, City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 3T4